

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KATHMA 03217 01 OF 02 221124Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
MCE-00 ACDA-12 OMB-01 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13
AID-05 /085 W
-----018993 221147Z /12

R 220900Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2382
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
JCS WASHDC
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KATHMANDU 3217

SECDEF FOR ASD:ISA; CINCPAC FOR J4

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, NP
SUBJECT: ELIGIBILITY OF NEPAL FOR FMS CREDIT FOR DEFENSE
ARTICLES

REF: (A) 77 STATE 207984, (B) 77 STATE 252478, (C) MASM PART III

1. THE DATT HAS RECEIVED AN INFORMAL ORAL REQUEST FROM
GENERAL GUNA SJB RANA, CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF (COAS), ROYAL
NEPAL ARMY (RNA) ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF NEPAL PURCHASING
A SMALL NUMBER OF ANTI-TANK WEAPONS FROM THE UNITED STATES
THROUGH MEANS OF A LOAN (FMS CREDIT). SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED
ITEMS WERE 106MM RECOILESS REFLES. THIS IS NOT A FORMAL RE-
QUEST FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL (GON) FOR AN ESTIMATE,
EITHER PROGRAM AND BUDGET OR PRICING AND AVAILABILITY,
ALTHOUGH, OBVIOUSLY IT COULD LEAD TO SUCH. INQUIRY IS
BEING FORWARDED PER GUIDANCE IN REFERENCES ABOVE.

2. AS TO BACKGROUND AND REASONS FOR WANTING ANTI-TANK
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KATHMA 03217 01 OF 02 221124Z

WEAPONS, COAS PROVIDED FOLLOWING EXPLANATION. RETURN OF
ROYAL NEPAL ARMY TO UN PEACEKEEPING BUSINESS HAS SERVED
TO SPOTLIGHT FOR RNA EXISTING VOID IN ITS NEEDED DEFENSIVE
CAPABILITIES. THE NEPALESE CONTINGENT IN UNIFIL FACES,
AT LEAST AN ARMORED CAR THREAT, BUT IS WITHOUT ANTI-TANK
WEAPONS WHILE OTHER CONTINGENTS HAVE THEM. AS RESULT,
AS SHORT TERM SOLUTION, NEPAL IS REPORTEDLY FORMALLY

NEGOTIATING WITH THE UN AND WITH THREE OTHER COUNTRIES ON OBTAINING SUBJECT WEAPONS FOR THEIR UNIFIL CONTINGENT. MORE BASICALLY, HOWEVER, THIS REALIZATION OF A LACK OF ANTI-TANK CAPABILITY IN THEIR MEAGER INVENTORY HAS STIRRED INTEREST IN THE RNA TO OBTAIN SUCH WEAPONS FOR THEIR UNITS IN-COUNTRY. COAS STATED THAT HE WAS WONDERING IF THE U.S. WOULD CONSIDER SELLING ANTI-TANK WEAPONS, SUCH AS 106MM RR, TO NEPAL ON CREDIT IN ORDER TO EQUIP SOME OF THE BATTALIONS IN NEPAL. ALTHOUGH NOT DIRECTLY STATED BY COAS, THERE IS ALSO POSSIBILITY THAT NEPAL MIGHT WANT TO PURCHASE SUBJECT WEAPONS FROM THE U.S. FOR THEIR UN CONTINGENT, PENDING OUTCOME OF CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS ON SUCH SALE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.

3. THE NEED FOR SUCH WEAPONS, RECENTLY DISCOVERED OR REDISCOVERED BY THE RNA DUE TO THEIR UNIFIL PARTICIPATION, APPEARS TO BE LOGICAL AND REALISTIC. THEY WANT TO PROVIDE THEIR UNITS WITH ANTI-TANK WEAPONS AS PART OF MODERNIZATION PROGRAM TO IMPROVE THE CAPABILITIES OF THEIR SMALL ARMY PRESENTLY EQUIPPED WITH ONLY BASIC, UNSOPHISTICATED AND, IN SOME CASES, ANTIQUATED WEAPONRY. THEY HAVE NO ANTI-TANK WEAPONS, PER SEE. ADMITTEDLY, THE NEED FOR ANTI-TANK WEAPONS IN NEPAL IS NOT LARGE. THE RUGGED TERRAIN AND MIGHTY HIMALAYAS ARE A FORMIDABLE BARRIER IN THEMSELVES. HOWEVER, ANTI-TANK WEAPONS WOULD HAVE A LIMITED DEFENSIVE USE ALONG THE FEW LINES OF COM-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KATHMA 03217 01 OF 02 221124Z

MUNICATIONS THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS AND IN THE LOW PLAINS OF THE TERA I IN SOUTHERN NEPAL. COAS DID NOT DIVULGE THE NUMBER OF WEAPONS WHICH THEY MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN BUYING OR MONETARY AMOUNT INVOLVED. DATT BELIEVES THEY WOULD BE THINKING IN THE AREA OF 20-50 RECOILESS RIFLES (106MM).

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KATHMA 03217 02 OF 02 230739Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
MCE-00 ACDA-12 OMB-01 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13

AID-05 /085 W

-----026609 230740Z /11/10

R 220900Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2383
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
JCS WASHDC
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KATMMANDU 3217

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

SECDEF FOR ASD:ISA; CINCPAC FOR J4

4. THERE ARE SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT FACTORS INVOLVED IN THIS REQUEST FROM THE COAS. FIRST IS THE SHIFT FROM SEEKING U.S. GRANT AID EQUIPMENT TO NOW ASKING ABOUT PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT THROUGH CREDIT. APPARENTLY, GEN GUNA AND OTHER INVOLVED OFFICIALS HAVE FINALLY ACCEPTED THAT UNDER CURRENT U.S. POLICY, GRANT AID EQUIPMENT WILL NOT BE FORTHCOMING. SINCE THE LATE 1960'S, WHEN NEPAL RECEIVED ITS LAST MAP EQUIPMENT, VARIOUS GON OFFICIALS HAVE CONTINUED FREQUENTLY TO ASK ABOUT REPLACEMENT OR ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT ON A DONATION BASIS. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME, AT LEAST IN-COUNTRY, THAT THE U.S. HAS BEEN APPROACHED ABOUT A POSSIBLE MILITARY BUY. SECONDLY, THE DESIRED EQUIPMENT IS PRACTICAL AND SUITABLE FOR THEIR SMALL MOUNTAIN INFANTRY-ORIENTED ARMY. THEY ARE INTERESTED IN SIMPLE BASIC EQUIPMENT (MANY ARMIES WOULD CONSIDER 106MM ITSELF AS OUT-OF-DATE) WHICH WILL BLEND IN WITH THEIR PRESENT INVENTORY AND CAPABILITIES--NOT IN SOPHISTICATED ELECTRONIC
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KATHMA 03217 02 OF 02 230739Z

OR MISSILE TYPE WEAPONRY. NEPAL IS TRYING SLOWLY TO MODERNIZE ITS RATHER ANTIQUATED ARMY, BUT IS DOING SO IN VERY MODEST FASHION CONSISTENT BOTH WITH THE POVERTY OF THE COUNTRY AND THE LIMITED EXISTING THREAT. DESIRE TO ACQUIRE SMALL NUMBER OF 106MM'S STRIKES US AS FULLY CONSISTENT WITH THAT LIMITED OBJECTIVE.

5. IT IS REALIZED THAT A DEFINITE RESPONSE TO THIS INFORMAL INQUIRY MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, IF AN INDICATION, HOPEFULLY POSITIVE, COULD BE PROVIDED IT WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED. FYI: IN VIEW OF THE RECENT MESSAGES ON ARMY TRANSFER POLICY GUIDELINES IT IS EMPHASIZED THAT MEMBERS OF THE MISSION ARE FOLLOWING SUBJECT INSTRUCTION AND ARE NOT ENCOURAGING THE INTEREST OF NEPALESE OFFICIALS IN U.S. DEFENSE ARTICLES.

THIS INQUIRY FOR MS CREDIT ORIGINATED SOLELY FROM COAS.
ALL MEMBERS OF U.S. MISSION WHEN APPROACHED ON VARIOUS
OCCASIONS IN THE PAST BY GON OFFICIALS, HAVE EITHER
DISCOURAGED OR BEEN IMPARTIAL TO REQUESTS OR INQUIRIES
CONCERNING SUPPLY--IN PAST ALWAYS ON GRATIS BASIS--OF
U.S. DEFENSE ARTICLES TO NEPAL. END FYI.

6. INASKING FOR SUCH PRELIMINARY INDICATION, EMBASSY IS
NOT TAKING FIRM POSITION IN FAVOR OF GEN GUNA'S REQUEST.
AS IS CLEAR FROM ABOVE, WE ARE LEANING IN THAT DIRECTION,
BUT FORMAL COUNTRY TEAM APPROVAL OF POSSIBLE CREDIT SALE
OF ANTI-TANK WEAPONS TO RNA MUST AWAIT DETAILS OF SUCH
PROPOSED SALE--AND AN ASSESSMENT OF MILITARY NEED AND
ECONOMIC IMPACT THEREOF.
HECK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CREDIT, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KATHMA03217
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780260-0595
Format: TEL
From: KATHMANDU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780631/aaaabauw.tel
Line Count: 185
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 679cbf83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 207984, 77 STATE 252478
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2250709
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ELIGIBILITY OF NEPAL FOR FMS CREDIT FOR DEFENSE ARTICLES
TAGS: MASS, NP, US, (BRACKMAN, JAMES F), (BRACKMAN, STELLA S)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/679cbf83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014